

Visit from Professor Travis Glare, CEO of Lincoln Agritech

Professor Travis Glare, CEO of Lincoln Agritech, visited the RGE-NTU SusTex team and laboratory for an insightful exchange on textile sustainability, textile recycling, and the wool industry in New Zealand. Lincoln Agritech has been the lead research partner to the Wool Research Organisation of New Zealand (WRONZ), focusing on developing new uses for crossbred wool beyond traditional textiles.

Some takeaways from the discussion included

- **Changing Wool Economics:** Wool, once highly valued, now costs more to harvest than it is worth due to competition from synthetic fibres.
- **New Uses for Wool:** Lincoln Agritech's New Materials Group has been developing new applications for deconstructed wool—including particles, powders, and pigments—through the *New Uses for Wool Partnership Programme*, funded jointly by the New Zealand Government and WRONZ.
- **Plant-Based Fibre Innovation:** Lincoln Agritech is leading research in creating novel cellulose fibres from locally available plant materials. The project aims to transform low-value plant materials into sustainable, high-value fibres—offering an alternative to synthetic fabrics and contributing an environmentally friendly textile industry.

Both SusTex and Lincoln Agritech share a strong interest in tackling textile waste and exploring alternative uses for natural fibres, such as wool—reflecting shared goals in sustainable materials research.

We sincerely thank Professor Glare for taking the time to visit SusTex and for the valuable exchange of knowledge and insights during his visit.



From left to right: Dr. Poernomo Gunawan (NTU), Dr. Lee Mun Wai (NTU), Professor Travis Glare (Lincoln Agritech), Dr. H'ng Yin Ying (RGE), Associate Professor Dalton Tay (NTU).